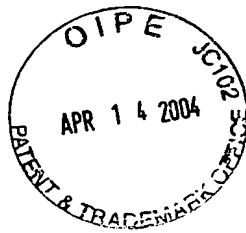


DOCKET NO: 0384-0049-0 PCT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
PATRICK DUWAT, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MARX, I.
SERIAL NO: 09/508,514 :
FILED: APRIL 30, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651
FOR: PROCESS FOR PREPARING :
STARTER CULTURES OF LACTIC ACID
BACTERIA

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated November 14, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.